

**Granite State Clean Cities Coalition
Strategic Planning Meeting Summary
June 01, 2007, DES, Concord, NH**

The Granite State Clean Cities Coalition held a strategic planning meeting on June 1, 2007, at the Department of Environmental Services, (DES), 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. Approximately twenty attendees participated in this facilitated discussion.

Process.

To start the strategic planning process, a brief background of the history of the GSCCC was provided, as well as an overview of the contents of the GSCCC Program Plan. Fortunately, the GSCCC program plan written five years ago is still very pertinent to the Coalition's goals. However, the original plan was written before the scope of Clean Cities was expanded to include idling reduction, fuel blends, and hybrid technology. It was determined that an Addendum to the plan should be developed to include the expanded Clean Cities mission. The Addendum will be prepared for the next GSCCC meeting scheduled for August 24, 2007.

Sherry Godlewski then facilitated a brainstorming session on areas/topics the GSCCC could work on. This was followed by a prioritization session to clarify a manageable list of tasks and goals to guide the Coalition's activities in the coming year.

2007-08 GSCCC Primary Goals

After the facilitated discussion that generated a "wish list" of potential activities, attendees discussed the goals that we could achieve with our resources and staff. It was emphasized that accomplishment of the goals will require active participation by GSCCC stakeholders. DES does not have staff available to work on all goals without assistance. We determined the following goals would be our primary focus for the GSCCC for the next year:

- ⇒ Encourage towns to adopt a clean fleet's policy and work with fleet operators on adoption of alternative fuels. 75% of our efforts will be focused on fleets and 25% on the general public. We will need to demonstrate the cost and value to towns and fleet managers.
- ⇒ Implement our current Alternative Fuels and Fueling Infrastructure grant program. We have received word of several proposals being developed.
- ⇒ Support the Biodiesel Study Commission established by HB689.
- ⇒ Continue to work on legislative issues, both federal and state. Legislative options include:
 - ✓ Tax relief for those whose use alternative fuels and vehicles
 - ✓ Increasing the gas tax and use appropriated funds to pay for vehicle programs.
 - ✓ A reduction in registration fees for efficient and alternative fuel vehicles; and conversely, increase registration fees for gas guzzling vehicles. "Fee-bate."
- ⇒ Encourage the expanded use of alternative fuel vehicles in the state's fleet.

⇒ Utilize the GSCCC website to provide positive recognition to entities taking green actions involving transportation. Possibly develop an annual GSCCC Clean Cities award.

In addition, stakeholders indicated they would like the coordinator to:

- Provide information about outreach efforts that have been made by DES.
- Promote the nationally recognized research on biodiesel being done at Keene State College.
- Encourage use of the NH DOT Ride Share program and other ride sharing opportunities.
- As local alternative fuel production facilities come on-line, the GSCCC will assist with press events and basic promotion.

Coalition Value to Stakeholders.

Our facilitator asked the group to define what brings them to the GSCCC and what else we could be doing within our means. Participants listed the following:

- The GSCCC serves as an umbrella organization
- The quarterly meetings are good. It was suggested that for special projects, ad-hoc committees could be formed who would report back to the group at stakeholder meetings.
- The Coalition includes a mix of municipal and private sector interests
- It was suggested that more time be built into the meetings for networking.
- Bi-weekly emails are fine as long as the information is relevant. Otherwise, do emails as information becomes available.

Upcoming Events.

- July 24, 2007. The NH Pollution Prevention Program and the GSCCC are partnering on a program for the ski industry on July 24 at Loon Mountain called Reducing Emissions One Engine at a Time. Contact Barbara Bernstein for more information.
- August 24, 2007, Our next quarterly GSCCC stakeholder meeting. Location and agenda TBD.
- The Tri-state transit association is having a fall meeting in the fall with an alternative fuels panel discussion. More information will be provided on that as it becomes available.

Other Business:

- The GSCCC has released a Request for Proposals for its Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Fueling Infrastructure program. For more information visit http://www.granitestatecleancities.org/pdf/CMAQ_RFP.pdf.
- The Clean School Bus USA grant RFP is expected any day. (See http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/r01_2007-6-8_nedc for details.)
- Fuel Maker products have been certified in Massachusetts.
- Individuals from Keene and Keene State College are planning to build a waste grease biodiesel processing facility.

Facilitated Session.

The following suggestions for program activities were offered by attendees during our facilitated brainstorming session:

- Provide support for plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- Work with local utilities to foster the generation of green power
- Encourage conservation of resources including:
 - Reduction of miles driven
 - Reduction of amount used in residential use as well.
- Encourage alternative transportation options for healthy communities and workplaces including:
 - Walking, biking, etc.
 - Ride share programs
- Continue to promote alternative fuels, in particular biodiesel, for the ski industry
- Support programs to grow, produce and use local sources for fuels, food and manufactured goods.
- Implement our current Alternative Fuels grant.
- Encourage national policy on alternative fuels.
 - Stay in touch with our Congressional delegation
 - Provide education to our elected leaders.
- Continue to be active in state legislation to support alternative fuels including:
 - Participation in the Biodiesel study Commission.
 - Encourage incentives for local production of feedstock crops for biodiesel.
 - Support tax relief for using alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs).
 - Support the increase of the fuel tax. Use the funding for education and the development of AFVs and an alternative fuel infrastructure.
 - Support a solar tax exemption.
 - Encourage a reduced registration fee for hybrid and AFV vehicles.
 - Encourage an increased registration fee for gas guzzlers (Fee-bate.)
- Encourage the state fleet to use more alternative fuel vehicles.
- Encourage towns to adopt a clean fleets policy
 - Understand the issues of municipal fleet operators and educate them on the potential of using alternative fuels.
 - Use the GSCCC website to give positive press to towns and businesses. (See Illinois program at <http://www.illinoisgreenfleets.org/green-fleets/index.html>.)
- Encourage NASCAR to promote alternative fuels to participants.
- Increase publicity and outreach for alternative fuels:
 - Assist companies who offer alternative fuels in educating the public about availability.
 - Create a promotional campaign with a “spokes-figure” like Smokey the Bear.
- Participate in the development of a green shuttle bus from the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.
- Demonstrate the outreach activities of DES to the GSCCC members.

- Continue to promote idling reduction.
- Develop a fleet-to-fleet exchange to allow fleet managers to discuss issues and solutions with one another.
- Promote ZIP car programs.
- Work with area car dealers to sell AFV and high efficiency vehicles.
 - Reinvigorate the Clean Cars certification program and promote, promote, promote.
- Expand the infrastructure for alternative fuels.
- Support the local production of biofuels without impacting food production.

The meeting adjourned and the group engaged in networking for approximately ½ hour.